GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:841
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
TARIFF REGULATIONS FOR DOMESTIC CABLE TV
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that local cable TV operators are charging domestic subscribers very high for set top boxes and monthly services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the complaints received in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued new tariff order to make available set top boxes and other equipments for digital TV domestic subscribers at reasonable prices and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the TRAI is monitoring all DTH operators to ensure that their tariff rates are as per the prescriptions of TRAI and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to make public aware of the tariff regulations, etc.?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c): In order to promote healthy competition amongst Cable Operators and to provide benefits to all Stakeholders including its Consumers, TRAI has issued tariff order namely the "Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Fifth) (Digital Addressable Cable TV Systems) Tariff Order, 2013" dated 27.5.2013 which provides standard tariff packages for supply and installation of Set Top Box (STB) to a consumer under DAS notified areas. Simultaneously, TRAI has also issued a tariff order namely the "The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Sixth) (The Direct to Home Services) Tariff Order" dated 27.05.2013 which provides standard tariff packages for supply and installation of Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) to a consumer of DTH services. The said tariff orders have been devised to make available STBs / CPEs at reasonable price with easy to understand terms and conditions, as well as to take care of the interests of the service providers.

(d) As per guidelines, the DTH operators submit a compliance certificate, as part of their Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) filed with TRAI every quarter, certifying that it complies with rules/regulations / directions/orders issued by TRAI from time to time and all the terms and conditions of their license agreement.

(e) TRAI has been conducting Consumers Outreach programmes across the country with the support of Consumer Advocacy Groups for creating awareness among the consumers about, amongst others, the benefits and other aspects of Digital addressable systems etc. TRAI has also been participating in talk shows, seminars etc. on the same aspect, organised by Doordarshan and All India Radio, for consumers' awareness / education. In addition, the information regarding tariff and STBs are also available under the heading "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" on the website of TRAI www.trai. gov.in for the awareness of the public.